

II. Remarks

The Examiner is requested to examine the above-referenced patent application as amended. It is believed that no new matter has been added. Pursuant to the Examiner's Interview Summary previously made of record, the Restriction Requirement mailed July 14, 2004, is premature. On the date set forth below, an interview was conducted between the undersigned and supervisory Examiner Kamand Cuneo, whereupon it was agreed that the Restriction Requirement would be deemed moot in view of this Amendment.

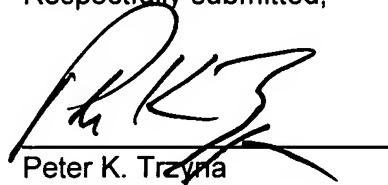
Accordingly, election is believed to be unnecessary. However, if an election at this point is required to preserve pendency, then Group I (i.e., those claims corresponding to, or including, the product claims) is elected with traverse. That is, the claims initially filed had claim 1 drawn to the product, but as amended, claim 1 now is a process claim. Group I is associated with the product claims, and if election is required, then the Group associated with, or including, the product claims is elected with traverse.

The undersigned appreciates Examiner Cuneo's helpful approach and willingness to advance prosecution. The application, as amended, is believed to be in condition for consideration in examination, and favorable action is respectfully requested.

III. FEE

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the above-identified patent application or credit any overcharges to Deposit Account No. 50-0235. Additionally, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (312) 240-0824 if it can in any way expedite or ease the handling of this case. Please direct all correspondence to the undersigned at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PKT', is written over a horizontal line.

Peter K. Trzyna
(Reg. No. 32,601)

Date: July 20, 2004

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